

HAWAI`I DRUG CONTROL PLAN



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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STATE OF HAWAI`I

JANUARY 2005

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In November 2003, the Lingle-Aiona Administration (hereinafter Administration) released the **Hawai‘i Drug Control Strategy: A New Beginning** (hereinafter Strategy). Since that time, the Strategy has evolved into the **Hawai‘i Drug Control Plan**, the framework for the State to move forward with a coordinated and comprehensive approach to address illicit drug use and underage drinking. The Hawai‘i Drug Control Plan, unveiled in January 2005, identifies strategies and overarching themes utilizing a three-prong approach that focuses on prevention, treatment, and law enforcement.

The three strategies of the Hawai‘i Drug Control Plan are:

1. To prevent illicit drug use and underage drinking before it starts.
2. To provide a continuum of treatment options for illicit drug and underage alcohol users.
3. To disrupt the distribution of illicit drugs by expanding law enforcement abilities and to enhance interagency and community cooperation and collaboration.

The overarching theme for the Hawai‘i Drug Control Plan is “Changing Attitudes, Changing Lives: a Life in the Community for Everyone.” Woven into the fabric of this theme are the elements of coordination, effectiveness, and facilitation of information. These elements allow for an orderly and consistent approach to the Hawai‘i Drug Control Plan through community based input and participation.

Utilizing the overarching themes of coordination, effectiveness, and facilitation of information, the Hawai‘i Drug Control Plan contains specific strategies for addressing illicit drug use and underage drinking. This three-prong approach focuses on prevention, treatment, and law enforcement.

The Hawai‘i Drug Control Plan will be the driving force to provide clear direction and common ground for future endeavors addressing illicit drug use and underage drinking. The Hawai‘i Drug Control Plan will serve as the blueprint for change in building healthier communities and healthier families in the State of Hawai‘i.

HAWAI'I DRUG CONTROL PLAN

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In November 2003, the Lingle-Aiona Administration (hereinafter Administration) released the **Hawai'i Drug Control Strategy: A New Beginning** (hereinafter Strategy). Since that time, the Strategy has evolved into the **Hawai'i Drug Control Plan**, the framework for the State to move forward with a coordinated and comprehensive approach to address illicit drug use and underage drinking.

In January 2004, the hiring of the Drug Control Liaison provided the momentum necessary to move the Strategy from a conceptual framework to the development of recommendations for action. In keeping with the commitment to give voice to the community, an Action Working Group was convened. The working group met diligently over a five-month period from May-September 2004. Their work culminated with the release of the **Report of the Hawai'i Drug Control Action Working Group** in November 2004.

The Hawai'i Drug Control Plan, unveiled in January 2005, details the goals and key strategies that will be carried forth in 2005-2006. Strategies contained in the Hawai'i Drug Control Plan are reflective of the input gathered from community representatives and experts in the field who participated in the action planning process. Recommendations from the Report of the Hawai'i Drug Control Action Working Group have been incorporated into the Hawai'i Drug Control Plan.

STRATEGIES

The three strategies of the Hawai'i Drug Control Plan are:

1. To prevent illicit drug use and underage drinking before it starts. "Our Keiki Are Our Future."

Prevention will be our first line of defense against illegal drug use and underage drinking. We will establish effective drug prevention programs that are long-term and comprehensive.

2. To provide a continuum of treatment options for illicit drug and underage alcohol users. "Ho'i hou ka iwi kuamo'o - Return to the Family" and "Access to Treatment."

Our goal is to develop a continuum of treatment options available to all who need services, regardless of age, race, gender, sexual preference, and geographic location. Strong partnerships involving government, communities, and private sector organizations will be critical to the success of the State's ability to develop and maintain this continuum.

We know that the family plays an important role in the recovery process. Treatment providers, family members, and other support networks will be encouraged to be an on-going part of the treatment continuum of care.

3. To disrupt the distribution of illicit drugs by expanding law enforcement abilities and to enhance interagency and community cooperation and collaboration. “Making Our Community Safe.”

Rather than working in isolation, the Hawai‘i Drug Control Plan reinforces the need for greater collaboration and cooperation between law enforcement, the community and the juvenile/criminal justice systems. These systems must be linked to community-wide drug prevention efforts targeting youth and families in all communities in the State.

While law enforcement’s efforts will focus on identifying and targeting drug dealers, the juvenile/criminal justice systems must continue to be attentive to evolving issues affecting treatment access. It is also recognized that the courts must also have the authority to provide sanctions that will encourage drug users to seek treatment and move towards recovery.

Although the world is ever changing, one constant will be the Hawai‘i Drug Control Plan’s ability to provide clear focus, direction, and common ground for all future endeavors and to ensure the integration of efforts.

OVERARCHING THEMES

The overarching theme for the Hawai‘i Drug Control Plan is “Changing Attitudes, Changing Lives: A Life in the Community For Everyone.” Woven into the fabric of this theme are the elements of coordination, effectiveness, and facilitation of information. These elements allow for an orderly and consistent approach to the Hawai‘i Drug Control Plan through community based input and participation.

COORDINATION

As recommended from the 2003 Hawai‘i Drug Control Strategy Summit, the Drug Control Liaison position was established to facilitate systems change, to provide statewide coordination of underage drinking and drug control efforts, and to ensure that public funds are utilized effectively.

As recommended by the 2004 Action Working Group, the Administration will:

Establish a State Coordinating Council that will:

- provide a uniform drug control message;
- recommend policy changes;
- identify interagency and/or interdepartmental barriers and issues that interfere with effective treatment and prevention services;

- develop strategies to enhance systems coordination and build partnerships;
- expand community mobilization efforts; and
- develop strategies to decrease duplication within the system and increase programs that are a proven success.

The State Coordinating Council shall be comprised of representatives from the Departments of Health, Attorney General, Human Services, Public Safety, Education, Transportation, the Office of Youth Services, the Judiciary, Hawai'i Paroling Authority, all County Drug Liaisons, faith based organizations, non-profit organizations, service organizations, the prevention and treatment community, and law enforcement. The Council will be staffed by the Drug Control Liaison.

The State Coordinating Council shall also maintain coordinated efforts and build partnerships among federal, state, county and community agencies. The greatest contribution a single entity such as the State Coordinating Council can provide is a consistent and uniform drug control message, something that our State currently lacks.

EFFECTIVENESS

The Drug Control Liaison and State Coordinating Council shall focus on minimizing duplicative efforts throughout all layers of government while promoting coordination and identifying gaps in services to maximize effectiveness throughout the State.

Collaboration shall be the cornerstone of all initiatives and efforts in reducing harm in our communities and in responding to the unique prevention, treatment, juvenile/criminal justice, and law enforcement needs associated with drug distribution, substance abuse, and underage drinking throughout our islands.

Under the Hawai'i Drug Control Plan, the Administration will:

1. Introduce legislation to eliminate duplicate efforts of various advisory entities.
2. Coordinate and collaborate with State agencies to create uniform standards for the evaluation of substance abuse and underage drinking programs.

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

Currently, there is an absence of a comprehensive and integrated data infrastructure, data reporting methods, and data collection within State agencies. Logic dictates that a better informed community contributes to informed policy and informed resource allocation. Thus, it is necessary to create an appropriate data information system to disseminate findings and develop priorities for funding.

Under the Hawai'i Drug Control Plan, the Administration will:

1. Establish a Substance Abuse Data Center to review and coordinate data and information resources statewide. The Center will be the central point of

access for data analysis, evaluation, and research. The centralization of substance abuse data will enable the State Coordinating Council to identify current gaps in funding and to allocate funds appropriately to the communities in greatest need.

2. Establish a user-friendly website to provide up-to-date information regarding drug issues in the State. The website will be a tool to keep the general public abreast of statewide drug and alcohol related activities and will include a calendar of events as well as a calendar of educational training sessions.

THREE-PRONG APPROACH

Utilizing the overarching themes of coordination, effectiveness, and facilitation of information, the Hawai'i Drug Control Plan focuses on a three-prong approach to address illicit drug use and underage drinking. This approach focuses on prevention, treatment, and law enforcement.

#1 - Prevention

The primary focus of the prevention efforts will be to target middle school youth and to develop effective after school programs. Federal funds have been secured for the expansion of prevention programs at existing youth centers. An increased number of age appropriate prevention programs will be available throughout the State to reduce teen experimentation with drugs and alcohol.

Reducing underage drinking is a high priority for this Administration. Alcohol is the number one drug of choice for teens in Hawai'i, as well as throughout the nation. Commonly recognized as a gateway drug, the continued use of alcohol often leads to illicit drug use. The State will take a proactive stand in reducing underage drinking and partner with existing organizations and other public agencies to reduce duplicative efforts, maximize limited resources, and coordinate new and innovative strategies.

Under the Hawai'i Drug Control Plan, the Administration will:

1. Introduce legislation for the suspension of driving privileges of a person under 21 years of age that is found to have purchased or is in possession of alcohol. With passage of this legislation, the law will establish a deterrent for underage drinking.
2. Request an additional \$2.0 million targeted for "innovative, non-traditional, out of the box" prevention programs.
3. Collaborate with the Department of Defense to address prevention issues through a \$2.5 million prevention Request for Proposal.

4. Continue to establish educational programs in the schools that target the fight against illicit drug use and underage drinking, such as “Protecting You, Protecting Me.”
5. Continue media campaigns featuring role models to counter attack illicit drug use and underage drinking. Campaigns featuring Jasmine Trias, Bryan Clay, and Bethany Hamilton have already been launched.
6. Continue to coordinate with the Department of Education and the Department of Health to develop school-based education curricula programs addressing illicit drug use and underage drinking.
7. Continue to coordinate with the Department of Defense for the expansion of the program “About Face” which provides services to at-risk youth in a structured community environment.
8. Continue to support the after-school program targeted towards middle school youth entitled “UPLINK”. This program focuses on issues such as leadership and teen pregnancy through activity-based programs. In conjunction with the Department of Education, Department of Human Services, and Department of Health, “UPLINK” is a proactive prevention program minimizing the influence of risk factors during the late afternoons when schools are not in session.

#2 - Treatment

The primary focus of treatment efforts will be to enhance the current treatment system of care and develop a resource structure that is adequate to support the full continuum of care, which includes outreach engagement and stabilization, as well as relapse prevention services.

Under the Hawai‘i Drug Control Plan, the Administration will:

1. Continue to work with the Department of Education, the Department of Health, and the Department of Human Services to implement complex-based adolescent treatment programs for high school and middle school youth. Under the current system, adolescent treatment is done through school-by-school allocation, but a complex-based approach will result in better utilization of limited resources.
2. Continue to explore implementation of a voucher system as an alternative to the current method of accessing treatment and recovery services through collaboration with the Federal government as well as other states that have implemented such a system. A voucher system will allow individuals the choice to access substance abuse clinical treatment and recovery support services through the use of vouchers to pay for a range of services.

3. Introduce legislation to clarify jurisdictional authority that the counties have over zoning issues. This will allow homeowners and residents to be directly involved in the decision making of land use issues within their communities.
4. Collaborate with the Department of Health and the Department of Public Safety to establish a Joint Forensic Facility. This innovative facility will focus on the need for thorough assessments of the offender population.
5. Continue to manage the development and enhancement of the capacity and infrastructure of the Adult Mental Health Division and the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division to provide integrated, evidence-based treatment services to people who have co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders.
6. Increase the biennium budget for the offender population program. Greater attention will be placed on the substance abuse needs of the youth and adult offender population, whether they are secured in lockup, on parole or on probation. This population requires specialized substance abuse assessment and treatment/relapse prevention programs, both in-facility and in-community. Services for the youth and adult offender population will be expanded through collaborative efforts of the Judiciary, Department of Health, Department of Human Services, Department of Public Safety and the Drug Control Office.
7. Introduce legislation to repeal Act 161, which mandates probation with treatment for a first time drug offender. Work in collaboration with the Judiciary, the various county Prosecutors, and the Office of the Public Defender to implement a system similar to the Judiciary's drug court. This new system will allow direct court supervision and oversight for the offender population undergoing treatment in order to increase the positive results of treatment.

#3 – Law Enforcement

The primary focus of law enforcement efforts will be to make communities safer through a number of legislative initiatives to be introduced during the 2005 legislative session. In cooperation with the law enforcement community, increased focus will be placed on identifying drug dealers and ridding communities of drug use, manufacturing, and distribution.

Under the Hawai'i Drug Control Plan, the Administration will:

1. Introduce legislation to equip law enforcement agencies with additional needed tools to arrest drug dealers.
2. Introduce legislation limiting the sale of precursor chemicals.

3. Introduce legislation to amend the current drug paraphernalia law to allow State law enforcement officers to enforce the law in a more reasonable/logical manner.
4. Introduce legislation to repeal specific sections of Act 44, SLH 2004 which decreases penalties for drug dealers and in turn, return those penalties back to previous standards of sentencing.
5. Introduce legislation to impose mandatory jail time for adults who knowingly sell alcohol to or purchase alcohol for a minor.
6. Introduce legislation to enhance the Attorney General's Drug Nuisance and Abatement Team's ability to seek and obtain court orders for the eviction of drug dealers.
7. Establish a Rapid Reduction Unit within the Office of the Attorney General to target drug dealers and expand the Drug Nuisance and Abatement Team.
8. Introduce legislation providing for a mandatory sentence of 30 years to life for habitual violent felons and make defendants convicted of a Class A felony offense ineligible for a lenient sentence.

SUMMARY

The Hawai'i Drug Control Plan will be the driving force to provide clear direction and common ground for future endeavors addressing illicit drug use and underage drinking in the State of Hawai'i.

The State Coordinating Council will utilize one voice to reduce the negative impact of illicit drug use and underage drinking. The Council will focus on needs of communities, while promoting collaborative partnerships between federal, state, and county governments as well as communities. The focus will be to eliminate duplication and the fragmentation of services and to encourage more responsible use of our limited resources.

A centralized data center and a website to disseminate substance abuse information to the public are critical elements in the Hawai'i Drug Control Plan. Additional Federal resources will be aggressively pursued for law enforcement, community development, and prevention and treatment programs. Communities will be empowered to stand up, take control of their community and fight the problem of drug use and underage drinking one block, one home at a time.

The Hawai'i Drug Control Plan will serve as the blueprint for change in building healthier communities and healthier families in the State of Hawai'i.

Please join us in our efforts for a drug free Hawai'i.

For more information on how you can participate in this effort, please call 586-0255.